(a) whether India has stalled the claim of a potential sea bed located between India and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, whether this would lead to a dispute with Sri Lanka; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to sort it out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. India has submitted its partial claim for an extended continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles before the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on 11th May, 2009. The submission is without prejudice to matters relating to delimitation of boundaries with the neighbouring states, which includes Sri Lanka. Bilateral negotiations with Sri Lanka are underway for delimitation of continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles.

Strengthening of RTI Act

*185. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:
SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to strengthen the Right to Information (RTI) Act; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Government proposes to strengthen the right to information by suitably amending the law to provide for disclosure of information in all non-strategic areas. It is proposed to review the Second Schedule of the Right to Information Act, 2005, and make rules for more disclosure of information by public authorities under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Act.

Internet services in hilly States

*186. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of Internet services being provided by BSNL in various parts of the country is unsatisfactory, particularly in hilly States like Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there has been inordinate delay in giving Internet/Landline connections to applicants in suburban and rural areas of the State;

(d) if so, whether Government has examined the matter in view of increasing future demands in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure optimal and efficient utilization of its resources to provide quality internet services to the hilly States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has fixed benchmarks for Quality of Services (QoS) for Internet and Broadband services. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) meets the benchmarks for most of these parameters. Further, as per Performance Monitoring Report for the quarter ending March, 2009, BSNL has met the benchmark for all the quality of service parameters in respect of Broadband service in the Himachal Pradesh service area.

(c) Normally there is no delay in providing Internet/Landline in Himachal Pradesh by BSNL In certain areas of Dharamsala and Hamirpur Districts, Broadband Internet using Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line 2+(ADSL 2+) is not feasible due to non-feasible landline. However, in such cases, dialup Internet connection is being offered on Wireless of Local Loop (WLL).

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Details are given below:—

- Wireline Broadband Internet using ADSL 2+ technology is being planned to cover 100% District Headquarters, Block Headquarters, cities and large number of villages.
- Uncovered villages are being planned to be covered using WiMax technology.
- Other wireless technologies like WLL, General Packet Radio Service (2.5G based internet) and 3G Broadband Mobile Services are planned for deployment on large scale.

(f) BSNL has taken steps like setting up of call centers, efficient maintenance and periodic review of Quality of Service (QoS) to ensure quality Internet/Broadband services to the customers.

DDA housing scam

*187. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any headway has been made into the massive housing scam of the DDA during 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the role of existing and retired DDA employees, bank officials and others; and

(c) the status as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) to (c) An internal Committee was constituted on 06.01.2009 by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to look into the whole process of allotment of flats and alleged irregularities under DDA Housing Scheme, 2008. The Committee was chaired by Finance Member, DDA with Deputy Chief Legal Adviser and Director (Vigilance) of DDA as Members. The Committee has submitted its Report